Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 47, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

Since introduction of cγc and mutants into the pGADT7 prey vector for assessing their binding to NIK as bait manifested high non-specificity, the interactions were tested in the reverse orientation: i.e. deletion mutants were cloned into the bait vector and NIK or C-terminus of NIK (residues 624-947) in the pray vector. The results summarized in Table ~~1~~ D show that none of the deletions, but the cytoplasmic domain of cγc (ICD) alone showed strong binding, to both NIK and NIK C-terminus. The binding of most of the ICD (lacking 5 amino acid from its proximal membrane domain) to both NIK and C-terminus NIK was stronger than that of the full-length cγc molecule. A 50% reduction in affinity to NIK was observed by deleting 12 amino acids or 44 amino acids at the membrane distal end of cγcICD.

Please replace the Table name beginning on page 47, line 16, with the following amended table name:

~~Table 1~~Table D.

Please replace the Table name beginning on page 48, line 8, with the following amended table name:

~~**Table 2.**~~**Table E.**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 49, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

The binding of 41 MDD polypeptide to full length NIK or C-terminus NIK was tested in both orientations (i.e. 41 MDD as the pray and NIK as the bait and vice versa). The results obtained are shown in Table ~~2~~E. The interaction is relatively weak when NIK serves as the prey partner, but strong when NIK serves as the bait. The interaction of the 41 MDD is stronger with the C-terminus of NIK than with the full length NIK. These results confirmed that the 41 MDD polypeptide is involved in binding to NIK.

Please replace the Table name beginning on page 51, line 8, with the following amended Table name:

~~**Table 3**~~**Table F**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 51, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

The results are summarized in Table ~~3~~F. The replacement of prolines for alanine in residues 360 and 361 reduced the affinity to NIK by 50 %, in contrast to other replacements, which failed to show substantial effect.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 57 at line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The binding region in NIK was determined by testing the interaction of a series of NIK deletion mutants with cyc employing the yeast two-hybrid system. The truncated mutants of NIK were cloned into the pGBT9 two-hybrid bait vector and cyc was cloned into the pGADT7 prey vector. The binding was tested in the SFY526 heterologous yeast strain, by beta-gal assay. The results are summarized in Table ~~4~~G.

Please replace the Table name beginning on page 57, line 12, with the following amended Table name:

~~Table 4~~Table G.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 57, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

To define more precisely the domain of NIK responsible for binding cyc, more deletion mutants of NIK were created and their binding to cyc was analysed by co-immunoprecipitation. 293T cells were transfected with vector encoding cyc and His tagged NIK deletion mutants and the binding of the different deletion mutants to cyc was tested

by coimmunoprecipitation (see details in Example 9). Antibody against the cγc was used for immunoprecipitation and anti His antibodies were used to detect His-NIK deletion mutants of the immunoprecipitated material on Western blots. The results are summarized in Table ~~5~~H.

Please replace the Table name beginning on page 58 at line 7 with the following amended Table name:

~~Table 5~~Table H.

Please replace the heading beginning on page 67 at line 1 with the following amended heading:

~~Claims:~~We Claim: